

Reducing WDRS's Carbon Footprint – Saving Paper and Ink

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What is a Carbon-Footprint?

Wikipedia defines carbon-footprint as “the total set of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product” (UK Carbon Trust 2008). On the web you can find carbon-footprint calculators along with suggestions how to lower your personal carbon-footprint. (For example, <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/>) In this document we are focusing on reducing the carbon-footprint due to printing.

Why bother?

Paper is one source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), produced at each step of the manufacturing process, including the production and transportation of raw materials as well as the management of waste. The use of recycled paper helps substantially. One study of paper cited on PaperSpecs.com indicated that “on average, one metric ton of virgin paper in North America produces 4245.1 kg equivalent of CO₂, while the same ton of 100 percent recycled paper produces 1791.1 kg.”

Using recycled paper is a big help, but what we really need to do is go on a “paper-diet”. The web is full of sites encouraging us to decrease our consumption of paper. Check out shrinkpaper.org for one.

Here are some vital statistics from greenprint.com that should motivate you to stop printing so much.

- 35% of the worldwide wood harvest ends up as paper
- The United States threw out 20% of all the paper made in the world
- One fifth of all the tropical rainforests in the world disappeared between 1960 and 1990
- Europe and America have less than one-half of their original forest cover
- It takes about 31 million BTU's to make a ton of paper enough energy to power a U.S. home for 2 months

Ink is also a source of green-house emissions so along with using less paper, we want to use less ink.

WDRS and Paper and Ink

WDRS has already made considerable progress in trying to cut down on paper use. Some examples of these efforts are:

- New hire orientation – materials online
- Job announcements – online
- Benefits – plan descriptions, forms online
- The use of double-sided printers

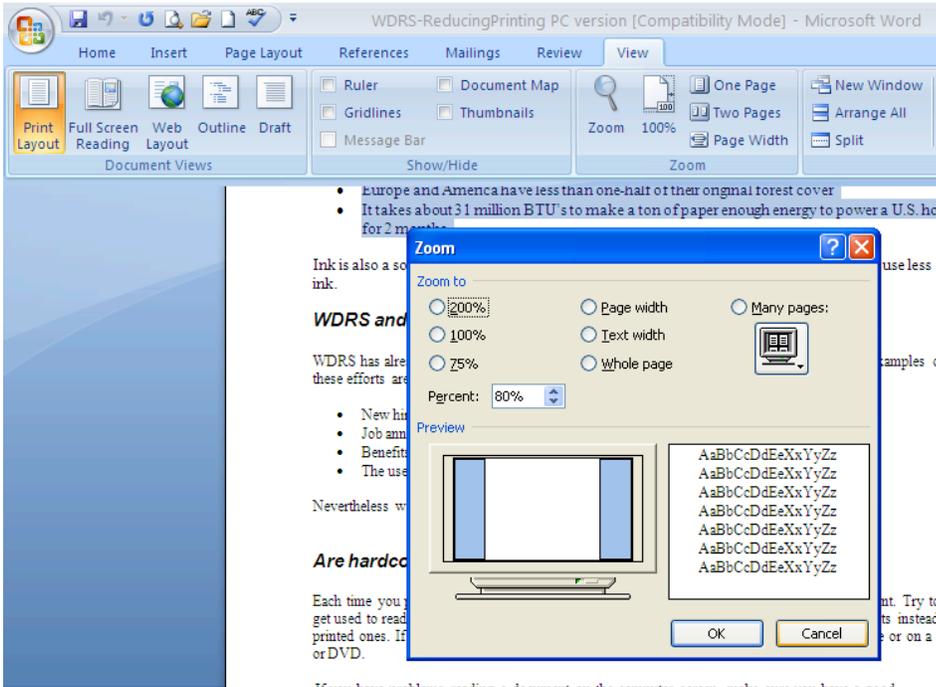
Nevertheless we still print and copy lots of documents.

Are hardcopies required?

Each time you print to hardcopy, ask yourself if you really need a paper copy of this document. Try to get used to reading documents on the web. Provide your colleagues with electronic documents instead of printed ones. If you are teaching a class, consider delivering the materials for the class online or on a CD or DVD.

If you have problems reading a document on the computer screen, make sure you have a good prescription for your eye glasses. Also remember that you can always pump up the size of the font. For example, in MsWord, select Zoom under the View Menu and set the zoom value.

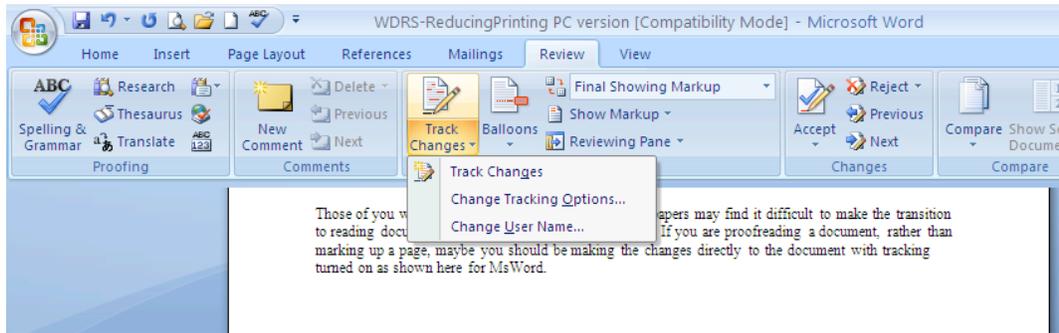
Use the radio buttons or fill in a percent.
Here the Zoom is set to 125%.



In Internet Explorer and most browsers, you can change the font size:



Those of you who are used to reading from books and papers may find it difficult to make the transition to reading documents on a screen. At least give it a try. If you are proofreading a document, rather than marking up a page, maybe you should be making the changes directly to the document with tracking turned on as shown here for MsWord.



Your markup actually gets the job done rather than taking a two-step process of marking up on paper and then putting the changes in the electronic document.

If You Have to Print

If you have to print, we provide techniques that might help cut down on the number of pages and the amount of ink you use.

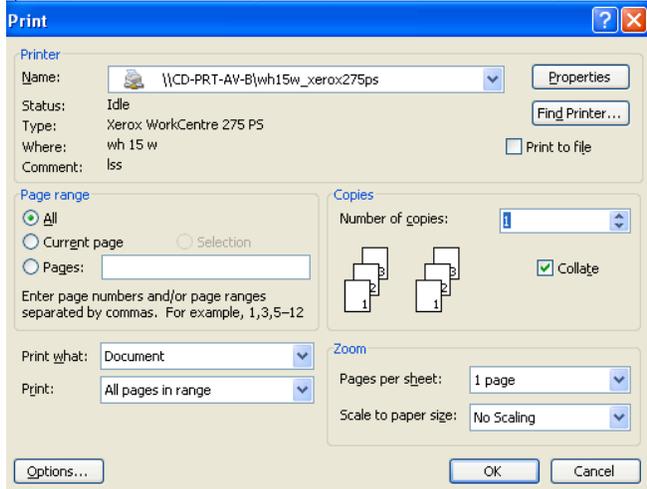
The screen shots provided are for PC users and many of the printing examples are from MsWord. They assume a particular printer setup, but they should serve to give an idea where to change settings on any printer.

Setting up Your Printer Correctly

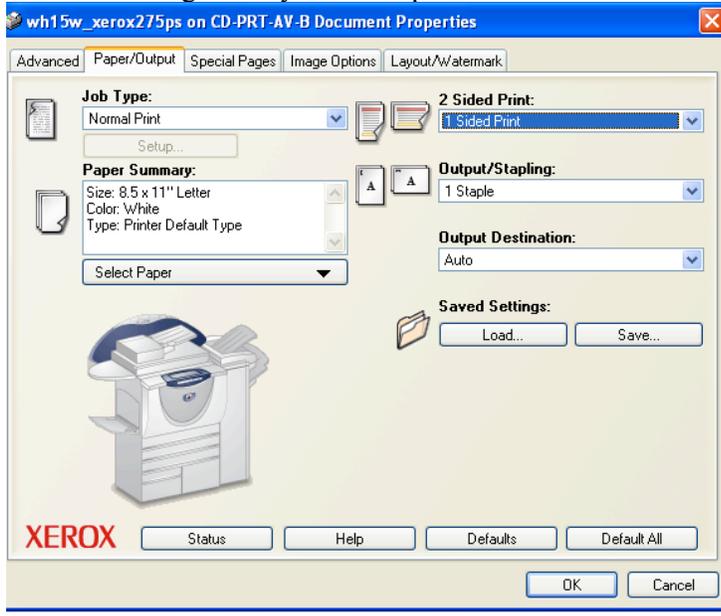
When setting up your printer, you are better off selecting the printer driver associated with your printer rather than using the generic printer. Look for the company and model number when choosing the driver. This way you can take advantage of the special capabilities of your printer. The Computing Service Desk can help you if you need assistance.

Printing Duplex

Most printers support the ability to print duplex, on both sides. When you go to print, you should see a dialog box. To change the presets, click on “properties.”



The default is generally “1 sided print.”



Look for “2 sided print” in the Paper/Output menu. If it is there, select it. If it isn’t, then your printer may not support double-sided printing or perhaps you have a generic printer driver that does not recognize your printer’s full capabilities. If you succeed, your dialog box should have:



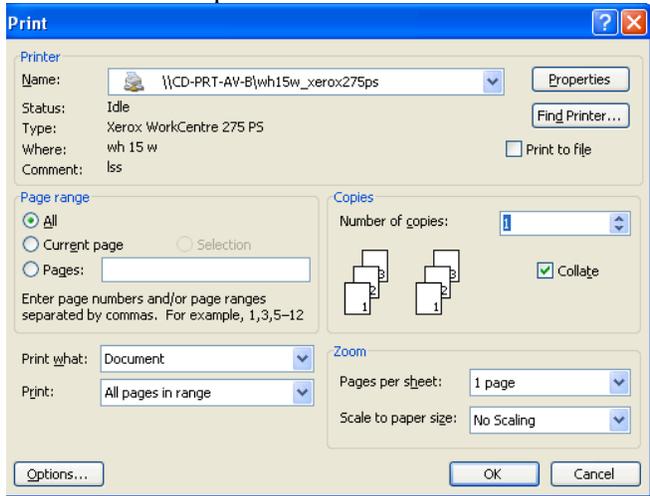
Already this can cut the number of pages you print in half! If the printer you use most frequently does not support duplex printing, either find a printer that does or ask your system administrator whether they can purchase a duplex unit for the printer.

Printing Multiple Pages per Sheet:

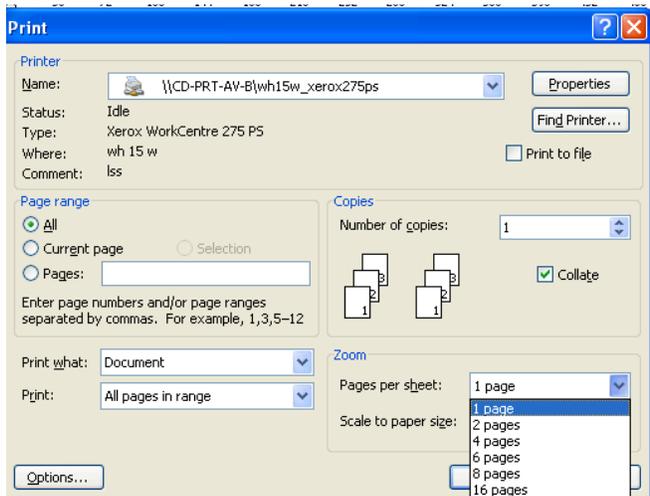
This is particularly relevant when you are printing out handouts for meetings. To avoid this altogether, you might consider putting your talk on a server for people to download or access directly from their computers when they come to the meeting. It really depends on whether the people to whom you are

talking bring a computer to talks and whether they need a hardcopy to make notes on. If your audience requires hardcopies, then print at least two per sheet and make them double-side.

To see this capability, you are going to need to click on “Zoom – Pages per Sheet” on the right of the Printer selection pull-down.



Check the number of pages per sheet to 2 or even higher if you think you can read the material that small.



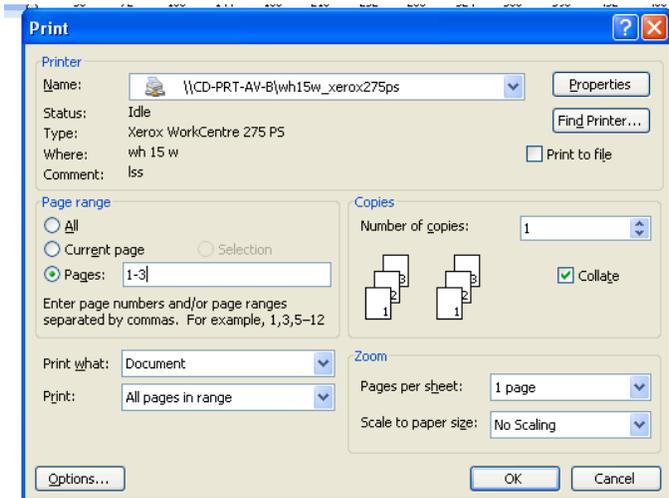
You can play with the other settings, but the defaults are a good start. You can also click Preview to see how it looks.

Printing Preview

Sometimes all you really want to do is to see how your document looks - Print Preview. Often you want to see how a table or graph is lining up and you don't need to print to paper. You can do some of the early proofreading by looking at a preview. It may be that you really don't need to print your document to the printer until you have the final version. You can Print Preview from the File Menu. Be sure you choose the printer on which you plan to print the final copy if you need it to be a hardcopy. Different printers behave in a different manner.

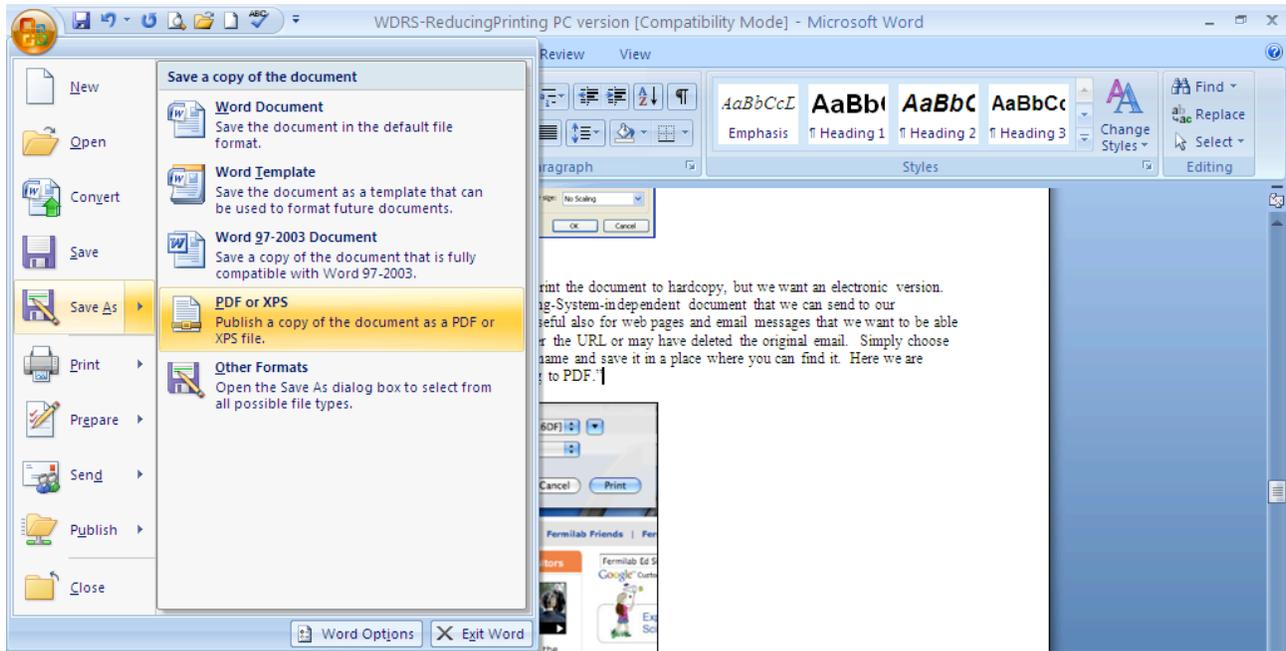
Printing Only the Pages You Need

Often we only need one part of a document. Don't print the whole document! Just choose those pages and enter the page numbers:



Save as PDF

Sometimes we don't really need to print the document to hardcopy, but we want an electronic version. It is an easy way to make an Operating-System-independent document that we can send to our colleagues or put on the web. It is useful also for web pages and email messages that we want to be able to look at later and may not remember the URL or may have deleted the original email. Simply choose "Save as PDF," give the file a good name and save it in a place where you can find it. Here we are looking at this document and "saving to PDF."



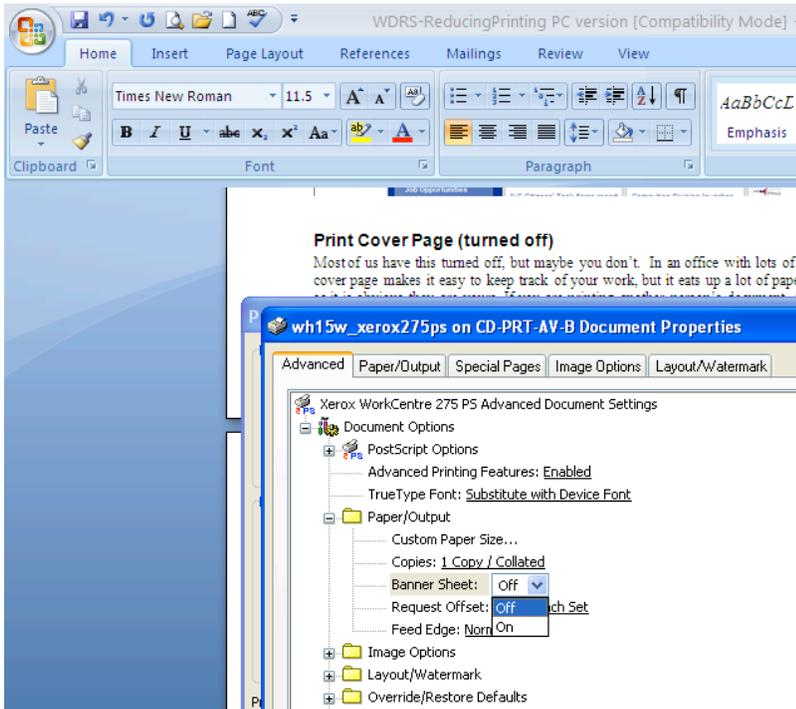
You can also email a PDF of the webpage you are viewing. In this example, you will “right click” and click “convert to pdf.” Save the file to a folder where to keep examples of websites.



Print Cover Page (turned off)

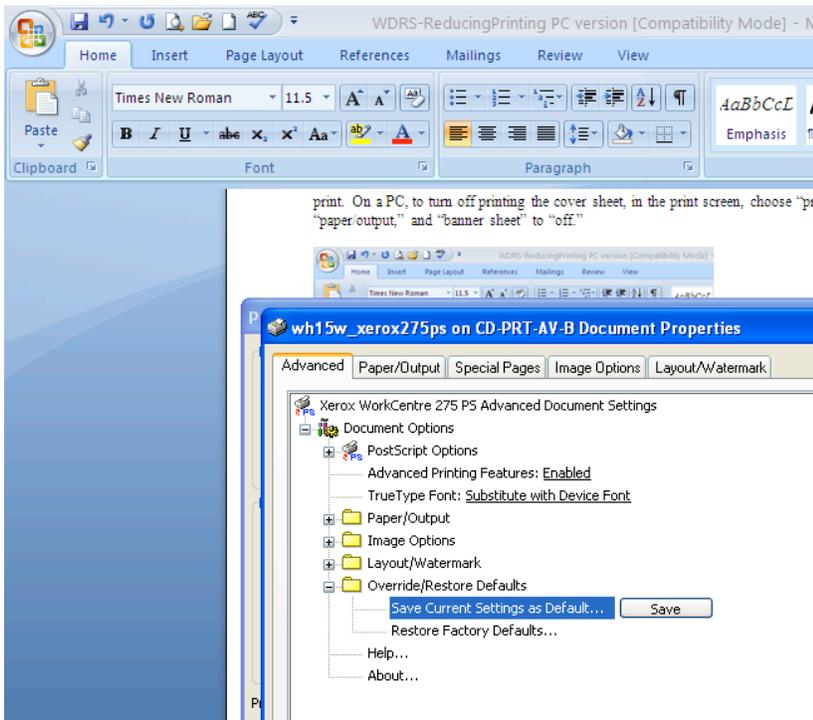
Most of us have this turned off, but maybe you don't. In an office with lots of people, including a print cover page makes it easy to keep track of your work, but it eats up a lot of paper. Title your documents so it is obvious they are yours. If you are printing another person's document, this may not be so easy. If you are printing one-page documents, you are often doubling the paper consumption each time your

print. On a PC, to turn off printing the cover sheet, in the print screen, choose “properties,” “advanced,” “paper/output,” and “banner sheet” to “off.”



Saving commonly-used options

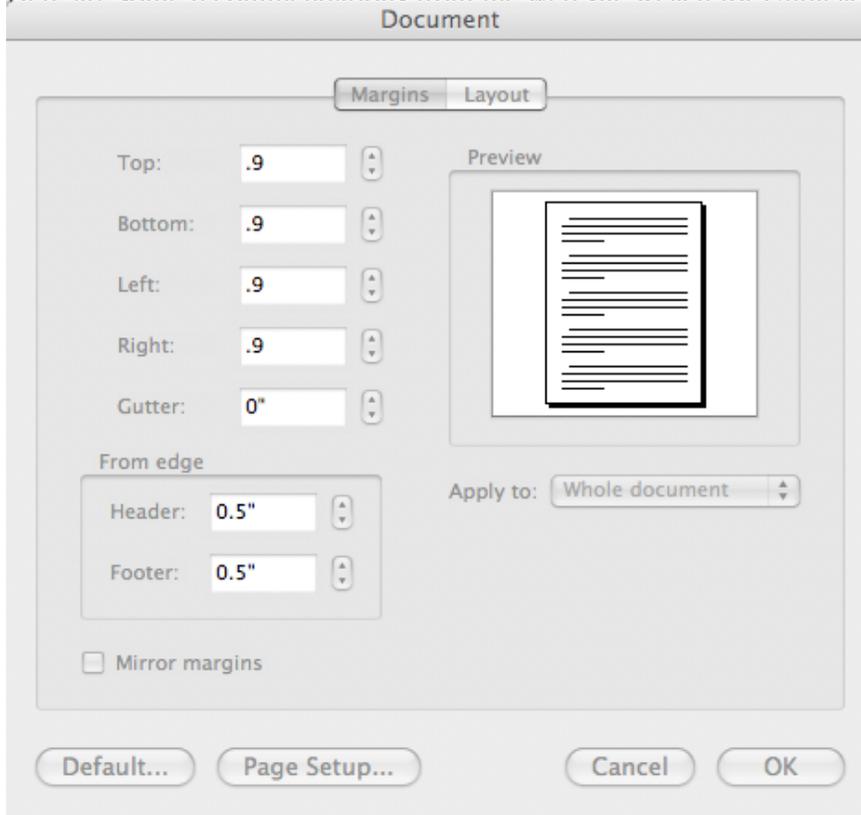
Once you have all your settings the way you want them, you save them to a “Default.” In the print screen, choose “properties,” “advanced,” “override/restore defaults,” and “save current settings as Default.”



Formatting Your Document

You can set the margins, font size, etc. in your document to cover more of the page and be denser. You also can resize images so there are not big gaps in your document because your image won't fit on the remaining part of the page. In a document like this one with lots of screen grabs, it is hard to avoid too much white space where the picture you insert doesn't fit on the same page as the text and therefore is placed on the next page. In the case of this document, we are hoping that you will never print it out, but instead you will open it on your computer and use it from there.

Here are some recommendations from the web site Reach for Unbleached Foundation



Settings in Microsoft Word to make... While you might not want to do... a lot of paper when working... e. ...r favourite sources of information

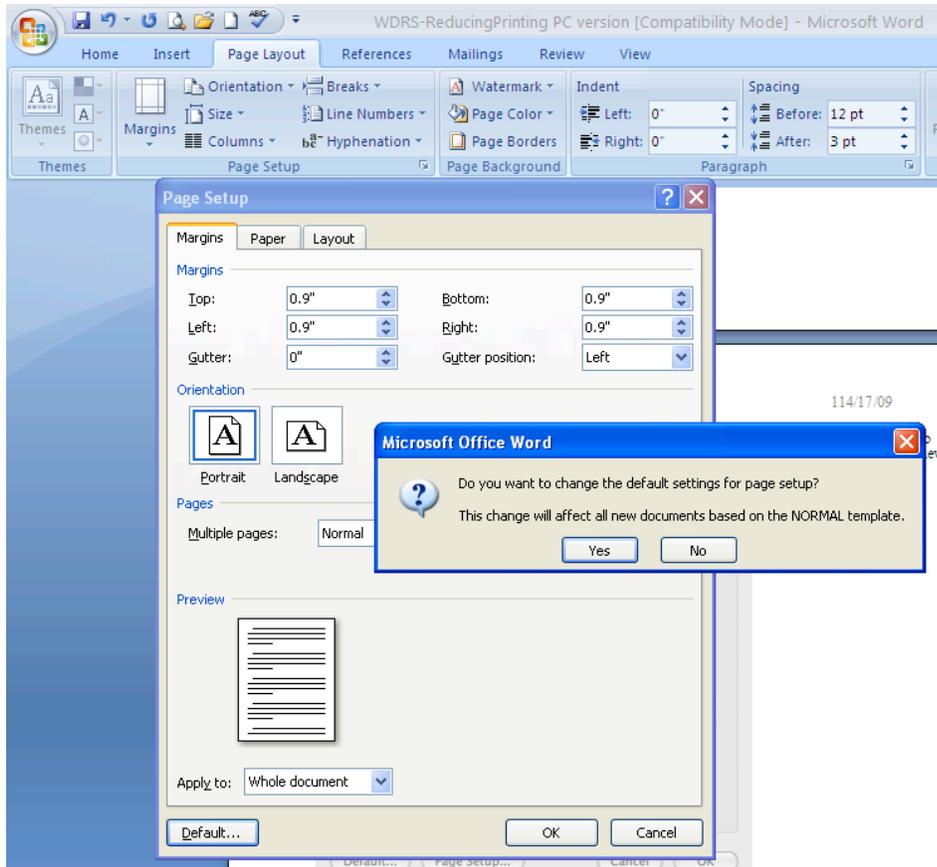
Bottom and 1.25 inches on the... ed the printable area on your

int to shrink your document

it to .95, you gain an extra line

to change specific settings, if you... n the default template directly.”

Tab and saving any changes as... . After you set the new margins,... plate on which the document is... se the new margin settings.



You may do a similar change to the font setting from the Font Menu. Set the Size to 11.5 and click Default. Again you will get the dialog box to save the new default settings as shown before. The default font applies to new documents based on the active template. Different templates might use different default font settings.

Line spacing determines the amount of vertical space between lines of text. Microsoft Word uses single line spacing by default. The line spacing you select will affect all lines of text in the selected paragraph or the paragraph that contains the insertion point. You can set line spacing on the Indents and Spacing tab (Format menu, Paragraph command). The default of single line spacing is a big improvement over 1.5 lines and double spacing so you may not need to worry about this. On the Mac, it is a little confusing where to change this.

Using GreenPrint

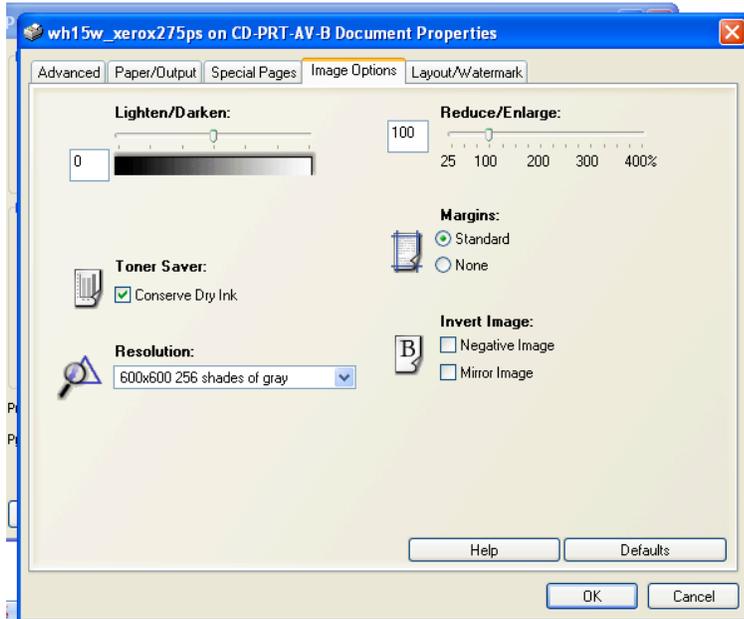
There is a cute little application for Windows and Mac OSX Leopard that allows you to control the pages you print and whether you print graphics and/or text. It keeps a log of how much you have saved in paper and cost by eliminating printing blank pages and unwanted images. There is a free trial version to test and it may actually be enough to use the 30-day free copy to train you into better habits. There is a free version that does not have all the functionality of the \$29 version, but it does provide the main benefits. Look at

<http://printgreener.com/>

Ask your system administrator if have problems installing it. It does require some overhead in the time it takes to analyze the print job and for you to delete pages or content. You may decide that you want to concentrate on other techniques to cut down on your printing.

Print to Draft

With some printers, you can change the Image Quality. This saves toner. For example with the printer used for these test, you can choose Properties, Image Options and check the box for “Toner Saver.” These features depend on the printer you have.



Eco Font

You can use a font that does not use as much ink as other fonts. This is accomplished by making tiny dots throughout the solid part of the character. The human eye does not notice them.

http://www.ecofont.eu/look_at_ecofont_en.html

Paperless Office

The applications on your computer provide lots of ways to keep important documents. There is lots of online help available to take advantage of this functionality. Here are a few ideas.

Managing E-mail

Save your e-mail into folders either manually or defining rules for storing them. Even if you do not save them into folders, most e-mail programs allow sorting by the sender, by topic, date, etc. and also searching in each of these categories. You should not have to print out important email because it remains in your e-mail system unless you set it to delete automatically. If an email is especially important, you can also print it to a pdf file and store that in a folder where you can access it easily. By the way, one way to remind your correspondents that they might not want to print the mail you send them is to append a message to your signature. For example, Liz Quigg has this signature.

Liz Quigg
Fermilab
MS 226, Box 500
Batavia, IL 60510
630 840-2631
liz@fnal.gov

"Save a tree; think twice about printing this e-mail."

Electronic Notes and Tasks

Mac operating systems have Stickies that allow you make all sorts of notes. You don't have to be scratching these on a piece of paper. You can even search through these. You can put them on your doc for easy access.

Using Outlook 2007, you can set up electronic "tasks" to help you manage your "to do" list that contains reminders, priority levels, even allows you to assign a task to another person.

Electronic Calendars

Electronic calendars allow you to keep track of your life and send you emails or alarms to remind you of important meetings. They have more functionality than a little note book. You can keep a "to do" list with due dates along with your calendar items. If you have a PDA such as a iPod or iPhone, you can synch the information between the computer and device and have access to you calendar and contacts on both.

Scanning and Emailing Documents from Copiers

Many copiers allow you to scan a document and e-mail it to a list of people. For example, if you are given a hardcopy of a document you want to save for yourself or share with others, you can use the copier machine (WH15W_XEROX275) in the 15th Floor Southeast corner to email an electronic version of this document to yourself and others. You don't have to keep the original anymore. When you receive the email with the resultant pdf file attached, you can save it to a folder on your computer. You can scan in as many pages as you want at a time just as you do when you copy documents. The full instructions for this are available on the web from the manual. It supports various quality of scans including those that can be used by OCR (Optical Character Recognition) programs to extract the text.

If you have a copier that indicates it supports this functionality, but you cannot get it to work, make out a servicedesk ticket and the Computing Division should be able to help you.